

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DRC-01 /096 W

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R 280605Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2233

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 144

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0823

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF BURGOS FATHERS AND OTHER PRISONERS

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 813

1. THE BURGOS FATHERS WERE FREED AND LEFT MOZAMBIQUE ON NOVEMBER 24, ARRIVING IN MADRID NEXT DAY. THEY WERE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE TWO DAYS EARLIER, BUT BIG CROWD HAD GATHERED AT AIRPORT TO SAY FAREWELL AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES PRESUMABLY DIDN'T WANT A BIG SHOW SO DEPARTURE DELAYED. ADRIAN RODRIGUES, ONE OF THEIR LAWYERS, THINKS THEY WILL SPEAK OUT ON ARRIVAL IN SPAIN -- BUT SAYS THEY REALLY HAVEN'T ANYTHING NEW TO SAY, EXCEPT TO COMMENT ON PRISON CONDITIONS.

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WM ABOUT SAME TIME, RODRIGUES AND OTHER LAWYERS OBTAINED

RELEASE OF SOME 600 PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN HELD IN MACHAVA PRISON SINCE JUNE 1972, BUT THIS WAS NOT BECAUSE OF AMNESTY. RATHER LAWYERS HAD QUESTIONED LEGALITY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS UNDER WHICH THEY WERE HELD. FOR INSTANCE, INTERROGATION PAPERS WERE OBVIOUSLY FAKED; ONE INSPECTOR HAD PURPORTEDLY INTERVIEWED 250 PRISONERS, PRODUCING 1,000 PAGES OF REPORTS, ALL IN ONE DAY. THIS WAS FIRST TIME THAT LAWYERS HAD APPEARED IN ONE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS.

3. RODRIGUES SAID THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 100-200 PEOPLE STILL BEING HELD AT PONTA MAHONE PRISON, MAYBE 400-500 AT MACHAVA.

4. ACCORDING TO RODRIGUES RELEASED PRISONERS FROM MACHAVA SAID THEY HAD AT FIRST NOT BEEN ALLOWED OUT OF THEIR CELLS AT ALL, HAD BEEN FED MEAT ONLY ONCE A WEEK, AND HAD BEEN BEATEN. BURGOS PRIESTS SAID CONDITIONS WERE BETTER FOR EVERYBODY AT PONTA MAHONE.
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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